342 the ruai is undivided[7] and allows for traffic from the tanju' to the bilik as well as lengthwise, up and down the house. The ruai is separated from the bilik by the dinding udok ("dog's wall"), which is attached to the main supporting posts (tiang bumbong) of the ridge-pole. From the ridge-pole (perabong), the roofs slope down on either side, over the ruai to the front and the bilik to the rear.

The width of the ruai varies from house to house, but remains fairly constant in any single house. For instance, the ruai in the former house of Pengulu Meringgai of Durin was eight feet wide, whereas in his new house [335] it is twenty-five feet wide. The ruai for Rumah Nyala, Rumah Imba and Rumah Nyelang is in each case twenty feet, a standard width being achieved by the professional carpenters who built according to the size of asbestos sheets used for ceiling.[8]

In most ruai, three divisions may be recognized, determined by the tiang (supporting posts). Next to the outer wall is an area referred to generally as the padong, formerly the place of panggau,[9] a sleeping platform raised about one foot above the floor for young unmarried men. The

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[7] On ceremonial occasions, a temporary barrier of saplings (pagar api) may be constructed to indicate that a particular ruai is taboo (mali).

[8] Asbestos ceiling sheets (dik) are four feet square and the houses have five sheets across the ceilings.

[178] [9] Few panggau remain in this District, most having disappeared within the past two decades.